

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An optical cable comprising a central member, said central member is a grooved spacer having at least one SZ-shaped groove twisted around said central member spirally, each groove being spirally formed so as to reverse its direction at a predetermined pitch length and having at least one groove which is spirally provided, the each groove being substantially square in cross section and holding an optical fiber ribbon or a stack of a plurality of optical fiber ribbons within the groove,

wherein an inner width and a height of side walls of the each groove are set greater than a width of the optical fiber ribbon or a diagonal length of the stack which is held into said groove and said optical fiber ribbon or said stack held into said groove is twisted lengthwise in one direction a twisting pitch length of said optical fiber ribbon or said stack of a plurality of optical fiber ribbons is equal to or shorter than a pitch length of the grooved spacer, said pitch length of the grooved spacer being twice as large as the predetermined pitch length.

Claims 2-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 13 1, wherein the pitch length of the grooved spacer is not an integer times as large as the twisting pitch length of the optical fiber ribbons.

Claims 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 15 1, wherein an inner width and a height of side walls of the each groove of the grooved spacer are set greater than a width of the optical fiber ribbon or a diagonal length of the stack which is held into said groove of the grooved spacer and said optical fiber ribbon or said stack held into said groove of the grooved spacer is twisted lengthwise in one direction.

17. (Currently Amended) An optical cable according to claim 3 1, further comprising two layers of one-groove spacers which are twisted around said central member.

18. (New) An optical cable having two layers of one-groove spacers which are spirally twisted around a central member, each one-groove spacer being substantially square in cross section and holding an optical fiber ribbon or a stack of a plurality of optical fiber ribbons within the groove,

wherein an inner width and a height of side walls of the each groove are set greater than a width of the optical fiber ribbon or a diagonal length of the stack which is held into said groove and said optical fiber ribbon or said stack held into said groove is twisted lengthwise in one direction.